

REPORT ON NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE
Week ending the 6th April 1901.

CONTENTS.

	Page.		Page.
I.—FOREIGN POLICE.		(f)—Questions affecting the land—	
The Anglo-Indian papers abusing the Sultan of Turkey	255	Nil.	
II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.		(g)—Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation—	
(a)—Police—		Railway complaints	257
Inefficiency of the police	ib.	A railway complaint	258
Cow-killing by <i>badmashes</i> in Midnapore town	ib.	(h)—General.	
A case of police <i>sulum</i>	ib.	The Financial Statement	ib.
The Calcutta police in a theft case	ib.	Rumoured supersession of Mr. B. L. Gupta	ib.
The Musjidbari Street case	ib.	The budget discussion	ib.
Necessity of police reform	256	The Lieutenant-Governor's visit to the plague-infected spots in Calcutta	259
The Bankipore police	ib.	III.—LEGISLATION.	
Police reform	ib.	Proposed amendment of the Tenancy Act and the Civil Procedure Code	
A detective department for the Bengal Police	257	Mr. Cotton in the Assam Labour and Emigration Act	ib.
(b)—Working of the Courts—		The Mines Bill	270
Mr. Sanders, Subdivisional Officer, Bihar	ib.	The Pennell case in the Bengal Council	ib.
Mr. Pennell	ib.	IV.—NATIVE STATES.	
Mr. Pennell	ib.	Nil.	
A clerical arrangement in the High Court	258	V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.	
The Pennell affair	ib.	Water-scarcity in Bengal	
Mr. Cargill, Magistrate of Noakhali	259	Nil.	
Mr. Pennell	260	VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.	
The Road Cess and Certificate Departments of the Murahidabad Collectorate	ib.	Mr. Buckland's book	ib.
Complaint against a Sub-Registrar	ib.	Western civilization	271
Separate District and Sessions Judge for the Khulna district	ib.	The Chittagong commemoration of the late Queen-Empress	272
Complaints against the Magistrate's Office, Khulna	261	Hastings' Building as a place of reception for Native Princes	ib.
Mr. Justice Amir Ali's decisions in certain adultery cases	ib.	URIA PAPER.	
Mr. Pennell	ib.	Registration and return of documents by the Outack-emb-registry office	ib.
Babu Gunga Narayan Roy as Subdivisional Officer of Madaripur	ib.	Mr. Carstairs on the question of employing pleaders in certain classes of cases	ib.
Mr. Pennell	262	Reinstatement of a dismissed Sub-Inspector of Police	273
Mr. Justice Amir Ali in two criminal appeals	ib.	The Census	ib.
The Pennell case	263	Salt cases in Orissa	ib.
(c)—Jails—		Cholera and small-pox in Puri and Balasore	ib.
Nil.		A hailstorm in Balasore	ib.
(d)—Education—		Reduction of the Indian army	ib.
Examination guards in the <i>Barical</i> centre of the Calcutta University	263	The Bhubaneswar temple	ib.
Inspecting Panditships in the Backergunge district	264	ASSAM PAPERS.	
Mr. Percival, a teacher of the Chittagong Collegiate School	ib.	Famine in Cachar	ib.
The B. A. and F. A. Examination papers	ib.	Water-scarcity in Sylhet	274
The Viceroy's visit to the Sibpur Engineering College	ib.		
Educational reform	ib.		
(e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration—			
Local self-government in Burdwan	265		
Bad roads, &c., within the Baranagar Municipality in the 24 Parganas district	266		
The present health of Calcutta	ib.		
Foul tanks in the Chittagong Municipality	267		
Food inspection necessary in Calcutta	ib.		
The Calcutta Municipality and the plague	ib.		

LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Name of Newspaper.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Date of papers received and examined for the week.	REMARKS.
	BENGALI.	CALCUTTA.			
	<i>Monthly.</i>				
1	"Prachar" ...	Bhawanipur, Calcutta	.....	.....
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Anusandhan" ...	Calcutta ...	.....	27th March, 1901.	
2	"Bangabhum" ...	Ditto ...	.....	2nd April, 1901.	
3	"Bangavasi" ...	Ditto ...	26,000	30th March, 1901.	
4	"Basumati" ...	Ditto ...	16,000	4th April, 1901.	
5	"Hitavadi" ...	Ditto ...	35,000	22nd and 29th March, 1901.	
6	"Mihir-o-Sudhakar" ...	Ditto ...	1,600	29th March, 1901.	
7	"Nava Yug" ...	Ditto ...	300	30th March, 1901.	
8	"Prabhat" ...	Ditto ...	.....	3rd April, 1901.	
9	"Pratibasi" ...	Ditto ...	3,600	1st ditto.	
10	"Rangabhum" ...	Ditto ...	.....	.....
11	"Rangalaya" ...	Ditto ...	.....	29th March, 1901.	
12	"Sahitya-o-Samvad" ...	Ditto ...	.....	3rd April, 1901.	
13	"Samay" ...	Ditto ...	3,000	29th March, 1901.	
14	"Sanjivani" ...	Ditto ...	7,000	28th ditto.	
15	"Sign Board" ...	Ditto ...	.....	2nd April, 1901.	
16	"Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika."	Ditto ...	.....	27th March, 1901.	
	<i>Daily.</i>				
1	"Dainik Chandrika" ...	Calcutta ...	.....	1st to 4th April, 1901.	
2	"Samvad Prabhakar" ...	Ditto ...	2,000	29th March, 1901.	
	HINDI.				
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Bharat Mitra" ...	Calcutta ...	3,000	23rd and 30th March, 1901.	
2	"Hindi Bangavasi" ...	Ditto ...	10,000	25th March and 1st April, 1901.	
	PERSIAN.				
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Roznama-i-M u k a d d a s-Hablul Mateen."	Calcutta ...	1,000	25th March, 1901.	
	URDU.				
	<i>Monthly.</i>				
1	"Khadimul-Islam" ...	Calcutta ...	.....	.....
	<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
1	"Edward Gazette" ...	Calcutta ...	.....	.....
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Nauha Punch" ...	Calcutta ...	.....	.....
2	"Nusrat-ul-Islam" ...	Ditto ...	.....	.....
	BENGALI.	BURDWAN DIVISION.			
	<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
1	"Ulubaria Darpan" ...	Ulubaria ...	.....	.....
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Bangabandhu" ...	Chandernagore ...	.....	30th March, 1901.	
2	"Bankura Darpan" ...	Bankura ...	630	23rd March and 1st April, 1901.	
3	"Burdwan Sanjivani" ...	Burdwan ...	360	26th March, 1901.	
4	"Chinsura Vartavaha" ...	Chinsura ...	510	24th and 31st March, 1901.	
5	"Education Gazette" ...	Hooghly ...	1,600	29th March, 1901.	
6	"Medini Bandhav" ...	Midnapore ...	500	27th ditto.	
7	"Pallivasi" ...	Kalna, Burdwan ...	.....	27th ditto.	
	BENGALI.	PRESIDENCY DIVISION.			
	<i>Monthly.</i>				
1	"Sevika" ...	Diamond Harbour ...	.....	.....
	<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
1	"Hitakari" ...	Kushtia ...	.....	.....
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Khulna" ...	Khulna ...	.....	28th March, 1901.	
2	"Murshidabad Hitaishi" ...	Berhampore, Murshidabad.	800	27th ditto.	
3	"Pratiker" ...	Ditto ...	603	29th ditto.	

LIST OF NEWSPAPERS—concluded.

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Places of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	REMARKS.
	URIYA. <i>Weekly.</i>	ORISSA DIVISION.			
1	"Sambalpur Hitaishini" ...	Bamra, Central Pro- vinces.	500	20th March, 1901.	
2	"Samvad Vahika" ...	Balasore ...	290	21st ditto.	
3	"Uriya and Navasamvad" ...	Ditto ...	340	20th ditto.	
4	"Utkal Dipika" ...	Cuttack ...	500	23rd ditto.	
	HINDI. <i>Monthly.</i>	PATNA DIVISION.			
1	"Bihar Bandhu" ...	Bankipore ...	500		
1	<i>Fortnightly.</i> "Jain Gajet" ...	Arrah ...	.....	.....
1	<i>Weekly.</i> "Bharat Ratna" ...	Patna ...	.....	21st March, 1901.	
	URDU. <i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Al Punch" ...	Bankipore ...	500	15th and 22nd March, 1901.	
	BENGALI. <i>Weekly.</i>	CHOTA NAGPUR DIVISION.			
1	"Manbhum" ...	Purulia ...	600		
	BENGALI. <i>Weekly.</i>	RAJSHAHI DIVISION.			
1	"Hindu Ranjika" ...	Boalia, Rajshahi ...	500	27th March, 1901.	
2	"Kangal" ...	Kuch Bihar ...	300	.....
3	"Rangpur Dik Prakash" ...	Rangpur ...	1,000	28th March, 1901.	
4	"Rangpur Vartavaha" ...	Rangpur ...	1,000		
	BENGALI. <i>Monthly.</i>	DACCA DIVISION.			
1	"Anusilan" ...	Barisal ...	.....	.....
1	<i>Fortnightly.</i> "Faridpur Hitaishini" ...	Faridpur ...	Local	29th March, 1901.	
2	"Sankhanidhi Gazette" ...	Dacca ...	.....	29th ditto.	
3	"Sikshak Suhrid" ...	Do. ...	250		
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Barisal Hitaishi" ...	Barisal ...	400	.....
2	"Bikash" ...	Ditto ...	.....	26th March, 1901.	
3	"Charu Mihir" ...	Mymensingh ...	Above 1,000	26th ditto.	
4	"Dacca Prakash" ...	Dacca ...	500	31st ditto.	
5	"Kasipur Nivasi" ...	Barisal ...	About 300	.....
6	"Sanjay" ...	Faridpur ...	.....	.....
7	"Saraswat Patra" ...	Dacca ...	400	23rd and 30th March, 1901.	
	ENGLISH AND BENGALI. <i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Dacca Gazette" ...	Dacca ...	800	1st April 1901.	
	BENGALI. <i>Monthly.</i>				
1	"Vim Rudra Patrika" ...	Comilla ...	.....	.....
	<i>Weekly.</i>	CHITTAGONG DIVISION.			
1	"Jyoti" ...	Chittagong ...	.....	28th March, 1901.	
2	"Pratinidhi" ...	Comilla ...	.....	27th ditto.	
3	"Sansodhini" ...	Chittagong ...	500		
4	"Tripura Hitaishi" ...	Comilla ...	600 to 700	26th March 1901.	
	BENGALI. <i>Fortnightly.</i>	ASSAM.			
1	"Paridarsak" ...	Sylhet ...	500	.....
2	"Silchar" ...	Silchar ...	.....	2nd March, 1901.	

139

I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

Al Punch [Bankipur] of the 22nd March is sorry to see in a vernacular paper that some Anglo-Indian papers have again begun to abuse the Sultan of Turkey. Perhaps they feel gratified to wound the feelings of the Musalmans of India by abusing the Turkish Sultan, for whom they cherish great respect. Government ought to deal with these papers according to law. Such conduct on the part of the Anglo-Indian papers will not bring about good results.

AL PUNCH,
Mar. 22nd, 1901.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

2. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 26th March says that, owing to the inefficiency of the police, offenders are not always arrested, or, even when arrested, are acquitted at the trial. In the recent Bogra murder case, the police was severely censured by the High Court. Police inefficiency is a notorious fact, which cries for a remedy. The authorities attribute this inefficiency to the employment of a large number of natives in the police service. But this view is quite erroneous. Is not the postal service mainly composed of natives who are doing satisfactory work? The fact is that there is no proper supervision or discipline and punishment in the Police Department. Nay, on the contrary, whenever any complaint is brought against a police officer, every attempt is made by the authorities, from the highest to the lowest, to screen the offender. Most police officers discharge real offenders on receipt of a bribe, and the few good men in the police soon became worthless by association with such unscrupulous officers.

CHARUMIHIR,
Mar. 26th, 1901.

3. The *Medini Bandhav* [Midnapore] of the 27th March says that cows and other domestic animals are frequently missed in Midnapore town. There must be Muhammadan scoundrels in the town who slaughter these animals in broad day light. Recently the Vice-Chairman of the local municipality charged two Muhammadans with that offence. But the police sleeps in spite of all this.

MEDINI BANDHAV
Mar. 27th, 1901.

4. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 29th March has the following:—
Villagers, ignorant of the sanitary regulations in force in the town, when they first arrive in Calcutta, are not unoften roughly handled by police constables if these fail to extort money from them. Recently a newly-arrived villager was arrested by a constable for committing a nuisance in the street, and was kept in the lock-up of the Lall Bazar thana for about 36 hours, absolutely without any food or drink. After 24 hours when the poor fellow asked for a little drink, a constable was so obliging as to call out "*chup-rao*." After 36 hours' absolute fasting, he was examined and discharged by the Commissioner of Police. As the man was arrested at noon on Monday, why was he not tried the next day? Who is responsible for the *zulum* thus committed by a police constable on an innocent and ignorant person?

HITAVADI,
Mar. 29th, 1901.

5. A correspondent writes in the same paper as follows:—
The woman, who in December last decamped with ornaments to the value of Rs. 1,500 from the house of Babu Suresh Chunder Deb, which is close to the Burtolah thana, is still at large. The Detective Department, it seems, exists for the purpose of serving Government only, for, in the Presidency College defalcation case, the late Rai Jogendra Nath Mitra Bahadur had to go even to Nepal to arrest and bring down the culprit. But in this case, Government is totally indifferent, although the police is furnished with full particulars of the woman and other necessary information.

HITAVADI.

6. The *Navayug* [Calcutta] of the 30th March is surprised to see the woman who decamped with ornaments to the value of Rs. 1,500 from 78-1 Musjidbari Street, still at large, although the names of her relatives and other particulars are known to the police.

NAVAYUG,
Mar. 30th, 1901.

BANGAVASI,
Mar. 30th, 1901.

7. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 30th March has the following :—

Necessity of police reform. When Lord Curzon first came to India, his words inspired men with hope that under him India would be well governed. Encouraged by that hope, the Indians asked for reforms in various directions, and for police reform before any other.

We do not say that there are no good and honest men in the Police Department. We do not deny that the police renders the greatest help to the Government in maintaining peace in the country. But the intentional or unintentional misdeeds of the police, as divulged in the decisions of law-courts, naturally produce in our minds a feeling of intense horror and hatred against it. Instances of hideous oppression of criminals by the police in order to extort confessions from them are only too numerous, and that is why we feel ashamed to ask for police reform by drawing the Government's attention to particular instances of police misconduct.

In a recent case, that of the murder of one Amir and one Panchkari in the Bogra district, the High Court has expressed its opinion about the police in the following words :—

"We desire to express our regret that the other perpetrators of the cruel and outrageous crime have escaped punishment. It is pretty clear from the medical testimony and circumstances that the crime could not possibly have been committed without the combination of a number of people. The fact that the other persons concerned in the crime have escaped their just punishment is, in our opinion, due to the police. There seemed to have been no endeavour made to trace the movements of men who were accused or to place them in such a position as would enable the officers to find out the connection of the different accused with each other. We know that the police in this country, generally speaking, do not possess the detective faculty. So long as they can obtain a confession, and if there are a number of accused, turn the person confessing into an approver, they seem satisfied with the result. It is not for this Court to teach the police how to do their work. But we cannot help observing that in any other civilised country, without any resort to ill-treatment or oppression, effective steps would have been taken in the course of the investigation or during the enquiry before the committing Magistrate to bring home the crime to the other perpetrators."

We hope that the opinion of such an august body as the High Court will not fail to commend itself to the Viceroy.

O Viceroy! what the law-courts say and what the newspapers report surely reach your ears; but if you can wander about in disguise like the renowned Harun-ul-rahsid of old, many secrets concerning the police will become known to you.

BHARAT MITRA,
Mar. 30th, 1901.

8. The *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 30th March asks :—

The Bankipore police. Why are the Bankipore police taking down the address of all people who are regular subscribers to newspapers? Is it not with a view of ascertaining the extent to which native papers are popular? Government has not acted wisely in entrusting the duty to the police whose honesty is very questionable. It should get the work done by the Postal Department who could do the same with ease and exactness.

BANKURA
DARPAN,
April 1st, 1901.

9. The *Bankura Darpan* [Bankura] of the 1st April writes as follows on the necessity of police reform :—

Police reform. The idea that the police exists for the public good has entirely disappeared from the public mind, and the people have now come to think that having complete control over their person and reputation, the police fattens itself upon illegal gratification, and that in this it is supported by the superior officers of the department.

An instance of daily occurrence may be cited. A constable goes to hire a carriage for a police officer, but the coachmen he meets with refuse to go with him. On this, the constable maltreats a coachman, a gentleman comes to his rescue and is charged by the constable with forcibly rescuing an accused person from lawful custody. Anyhow the gentleman gets punished, and the constable escapes scotfree. Trifling circumstances like this are bringing the Police Department into discredit.

Members of the police force do not lose their service even if they are punished by law-courts. Instances of this are not rare.

Policemen are seldom transferred as a result of complaints made against them. The case is different with employes of the Postal Department. As a rule, postal servants are transferred whenever there are complaints, true or false, preferred against them. This rule is not observed in the police. One does not venture to file a complaint against a policeman, because one knows that he can do him immense mischief.

10. The *Pratibasi* [Calcutta] of the 1st April has the following:—

A detective department for the Bengal Police.

The High Court says that, generally speaking, the police is sadly wanting in detective ability. This is not untrue, but even the Judges of the High Court seem to be ignorant of the real state of affairs. Not to speak of detective ability, there is not even a separate detective department in the Bengal Police, as there is in the Calcutta Police. There are many able detectives in this country among the native police officers. Beneficial results may be expected if Government establishes a detective department in connection with the Bengal Police, and employs under it able and educated natives on higher pay.

PRATIBASI,
April 1st, 1901.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

11. The *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 23rd March complains that

Mr. Sanders, Subdivisional Officer, Bihar.

Mr. Sanders, Subdivisional Officer of Bihar, makes his Court *amla* work till sunset and sometimes till 9 P.M. The *amla* have grown tired of such hard work. Mr. Sunder's high-handedness has often been noticed. Government ought to direct its attention to the manner in which he conducts himself.

BHARAT MITRA
Mar. 23rd, 1901.

12. The *Chinsura Vartavaha* [Chinsura] of the 24th March writes as follows:—

Mr. Pennell.

Why is Mr. Pennell's name uttered nowadays by the old and the young alike? Why is he idolised everywhere in India? We see that Mr. Pennell has done something unique and wonderful in the annals of British administration, and so his name has filled all parts of India. Actuated by a sense of duty, he was not at all afraid to incur the displeasure of the highest authorities, and it is for this that he deserves homage. To err is human, and we do not believe that Mr. Pennell is infallible. But he deserves universal homage for fearlessly exposing in his judgment official wrong-doings, sparing none from the Viceroy down to Osman Ali. Mr. Pennell is so much highly spoken of, because for the sake of duty he sacrificed his self-interest by exposing the misdeeds of the executive authorities. His action has convinced us that he is an independent, fearless, just and impartial Judge. So we worship him as an ideal Judge.

CHINSURA
VARTAVAHA,
Mar. 24th, 1901.

13. The *Bikas* [Barisal] of the 26th March says that Mr. Pennell is

Mr. Pennell.

considered mad by some people, because he has refused to tread the beaten path of official business, because led by his sense of duty, he has not allowed himself to be intimidated by the frowns of injustice and high-handedness. Mr. Pennell has shown how far the executive officers in the country are capable of trampling upon law and procedure in order to maintain their prestige, and how far the degradation of the once adored High Court has proceeded. The heedless action of the Chief Justice in telegraphing the order for the release of Mr. Reily is without a single precedent in the annals of judicial administration. So the question is rightly asked—"who has gone mad, Mr. Pennell or some one else?" Even if Mr. Pennell has raved like a mad man, have the High Court and the Lieutenant-Governor acted wisely? Why has Mr. Pennell been suspended? Is it for disobedience in not making over the records of the Noakhali case? But the fact that Mr. Pennell came to Calcutta, in order to make over the records, and personally waited on the Chief Justice for the purpose shows that he was not disobedient in this respect. The Pennell affair shows that it is unnecessary to maintain the present expensive judiciary when the administration of the country is entrusted in the hands of the police. The glorious name of Mr. Pennell will not be forgotten on earth, so long as the sun and the moon will shine on it.

BIKAS,
Mar. 26th, 1901.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
Mar. 27th, 1901.

14. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 27th March writes as follows:—

A clerical arrangement in the High Court.

Babu Gopal Chandra Ghose, an Examiner in the High Court, will retire from service from the month of April next. But arrangements for filling up the post and other vacancies that would be caused consequent on promotion were made by Mr. Joyce, Deputy Registrar, so long ago as the month of February, and approved of and sanctioned by the then Registrar, Mr. Chapman, and the Chief Justice. The reason of this haste on Mr. Joyce's part probably was that Mr. Chapman was about to go on leave, and Mr. Joyce was not sure whether the Officiating Registrar, who would come in Mr. Chapman's place, would approve of the arrangements Mr. Joyce wished to make.

Gopal Bubu's post, which is worth Rs. 100 — Rs. 120 a month will go to Mr. Johnson, an Examiner on Rs. 100. Mr. Johnson's post will go to Babu Giris Chandra Chatterji, a Reader on Rs. 80 to Rs. 100 a month, and his post to Dwaraka Nath Das, another Reader. Up to this, there is nothing to object to. But why is the post of Dwaraka Nath going to be given to Mr. Cooper, a copyist, in supersession of the claims of nineteen others? It is necessary in this connection to give some history of Mr. Cooper.

Mr. Cooper is the brother-in-law (wife's brother) of Mr. Waite, Chief Justice's Private Secretary and clerk. He was brought down to Calcutta in 1897 by Mr. Waite, and, through that gentleman's influence with Sir Comer Petheram, got a post of Rs. 40 in the High Court, although he was then only 17 years of age, and men already in the service had a better claim to it. In less than two years, Mr. Cooper was, through the favour of the Deputy Registrar, who is an intimate friend of Mr. Waite's, appointed to the post of the *mahafez* (record-keeper) of the Appellate Department on a salary of Rs. 50. But, as Mr. Cooper knew none of the vernaculars, it became impossible for him to discharge the duties of the post, and Babu Kedar Nath Rai, a Reader on Rs. 80 — Rs. 100, was deputed to discharge the duties of the *mahafez*, while the nominal *mahafez*, Mr. Cooper, was employed as a typist in Mr. Joyce's room. But soon there was a better vacancy, and Mr. Cooper got a post of Rs. 50 — Rs. 70. And now he is going to be given a higher post, although a large number of men have a better claim to it than he has.

It is hoped Sir Francis Maclean will look into this arrangement. It is his implicit reliance on subordinate officers which is leading to these jobberies.

15. 'The same paper writes as follows:—

The Pennell affair.

Mr. Pennell is a British Civilian — a paid servant of the powerful British Government. He bears no relationship to us. What is, then, the reason of the people of India deeply sympathising with him in his present trouble and looking upon him as a friend of the country? The reason is that the Indians are not a disloyal, but a loyal, people; and though they do not desire the destruction of British rule, they wish to see that rule just and upright. The least sense of justice displayed by the British Government fills the people with delight, gratitude and the deepest respect, and makes them wish it well. Mr. Pennell is an upright British Judge. We believe uprightness and impartiality to be inherent qualities of Englishmen. But the Godlike trait which these qualities impart to the English character disappears in the case of many English officials as soon as they set foot on Indian soil and become fond of power. But Mr. Pennell did not fall a victim to this weakness. Uprightness has been his very life and soul. He is not a man to swerve from the path of truth and justice, if Heaven itself went into fragments. Such strength of character as he possesses is visible in but few men, and his high sense of justice has won him the everlasting gratitude of the people of Noakhali. The letters of Noakhali correspondents, which are being published in the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, afford a clear testimony to the sincere attachment which the people of Noakhali bear to him. And the sole cause of this attachment is his sincere love of justice. When the only thing wanted to please a subject people and secure their loyalty is a strict administration of justice, where is the civilised ruler who will forego such an easy way of earning the loyalty of his subjects and abuse his power? It is a matter of regret, however, that most English officials

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA.

serving under the just and upright British Government do their best to avoid this easy way of pleasing the subjects under their charge.

It was a maxim of Edmund Burke's that when the Sovereign and the subjects differ, it is more often the Sovereign, than the subjects, who is in the wrong. In this Pennell affair, the whole Indian people are sympathising with Mr. Pennell, while the Government is showing every mark of kindness and consideration to the accused District Superintendent of Police, Mr. Reily, and is humiliating and putting to trouble Mr. Pennell at every step.

Lately, there was a meeting of the Noakhali Bar Association to express sympathy with Mr. Pennell. Shortly after, Mr. Cargill, District Magistrate, asked a pleader why the Bar was not, also, doing something for Mr. Reily? What answer the pleader made to this question is not known to us. But our readers may be disposed to answer Mr. Cargill in the following words:—"What need has Mr. Reily for the sympathy of the poor Indian people, when the Government of Bengal, the High Court, the Anglo-Indian Defence Association and Mr. Cargill himself are so very kind to him?" We do not know with what object Mr. Cargill put his question, but every man, literate or illiterate, will admit that the man who wants to place Mr. Pennell and Mr. Reily on the same footing has very little sense of the fitness of things. But this very man is the worthy, impartial and independent Magistrate of Noakhali!

According to a correspondent of the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, Mr. Geidt, the new Sessions Judge, on arrival at Noakhali, enquired of the pleaders if Mr. Pennell had really won popularity in the place, and on being assured that he had, he told the pleaders that he had learnt as much from people in the bazar. It is not known if Mr. Geidt made these enquiries under instructions from the Government. But with whatever object he made them, he learnt the fact thoroughly well that the people of Noakhali looked upon Mr. Pennell as the very incarnation of justice, and respected him with the respect due only to a god, and that if Mr. Pennell ever again returns to Noakhali, thousands of people will draw his carriage for a hundred miles. Now, what is the reason of an officer who has been suspended by the Government being held in so much reverence? The answer is that it is the spontaneous and natural working of an unsophisticated heart to worship the just. No agitation is necessary to secure this worship. And it is because there are just men like Mr. Pennell in the British Empire that that Empire is respected by, and has succeeded in securing the loyalty of, all. Mr. Pennell is a noble example of the sacrifice which a worthy Briton can make for the sake of truth and justice.

16. The same paper says that the Noakhali correspondent of the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* has sent a curious piece of news.

Mr. Cargill, Magistrate of Noakhali.

Though curious, the news has probably some hidden meaning in it. The news is that Mr. Cargill, Magistrate of Noakhali, went in this hot weather all the way from Noakhali to Fenny—a distance of 23 miles—in order to wait there for the arrival of Mr. Geidt, the new Sessions Judge. Magistrates have been known before to travel a distance of 23 miles or more from their head-quarters in order to accord a reception to the Viceroy, the Lieutenant-Governor or even the Divisional Commissioner. But this is the first time that a District Magistrate undertook a long journey in order to receive a new Sessions Judge. Many surmises are going on among the people as to the object with which Mr. Cargill hastened to Fenny to meet Mr. Geidt. Some say that Mr. Cargill was anxious to be on intimate terms with the new Sessions Judge, because he will hear Reily's case in which Mr. Cargill also is implicated. Others say that it was in compliance with a telegram from the Government of Bengal, that Mr. Cargill met Mr. Geidt at Fenny and that Mr. Cargill has recorded this fact in diary.

Another incident deserves notice. Mr. Ezechiel, Magistrate of Mymensingh, who was formerly Magistrate of Noakhali, will have to come to Noakhali to give evidence in Mr. Reily's case, and he requested Mr. Cargill to keep horses for him. Mr. Cargill gave Mr. Ezechiel a refusal. But when Mr. Ezechiel made the request to Mr. Geidt, and Mr. Geidt asked Mr. Cargill to make the arrangement of horses for Mr. Ezechiel, he did it.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
Mar. 27th, 1901.

Thanks to Mr. Pennell, the people of India are getting many glimpses into the real character of Englishmen.

PRATINIDHI,
Mar. 27th, 1901.

17. The *Pratinidhi* [Comilla] of the 27th March has the following:—

Mr. Pennell.

In connection with the Pennel case, the public are surprised to notice the remarkable agreement in the action respectively taken by the High Court, the Bengal Government and the Government of India to maintain the prestige of the Executive. Justice or injustice done to an individual has very little value or consequence if considered as a personal affair. But if a personal affair has a far-reaching effect on the public mind, it surely deserves careful consideration. Public uneasiness will not be allayed if the abuses exposed by Mr. Pennell are merely hidden from public view instead of being completely removed. Whatever punishment Government may inflict upon Mr. Pennell, there can be no doubt that it would be extremely desirable to remove, instead of hushing up, the judicial and executive scandals exposed by him. Matters were hushed up in the Chapra case, but Government does not think it worth its while to do even that in the Noakhali case. The Viceroy, too, is getting accustomed to the noxious atmosphere of official life in India, as represented by the Judicial and Executive Branches of the administration, by close and constant contact with them. We expected justice from him in Mr. Pennell's case. It is the duty of every official who is a well-wisher of the British Government fearlessly to uphold the dignity of truth and justice, without making any distinction of caste, colour or creed, and without consulting the interests of individuals or parties. Every wise administrator ought to try his best to impress on the public mind the fact that under the British rule the dignity of truth and justice is never violated. By showing an undue eagerness to maintain prestige, Government is only losing all true prestige.

MURSHIDABAD
HITAISHI,
Mar. 27th, 1901.

18. The *Murshidabad Hitaishi* [Murshidabad] of the 27th March has the following:—

The Road Cess and Certificate
Departments of the Murshidabad
Collectorate

The irregularities of the Road Cess and Certificate Departments of the local Collectorate are too well known to require any comment. The public have often to suffer a great deal owing to the inefficiency of the officers in charge of these Departments. Lately there was a scandal in connection with the management of the Certificate Department and the record-room of the Collector's office. It is desirable that the Deputy Collector in charge should enquire into the matter personally, instead of taking on trust the explanation that may be given by his subordinates.

MURSHIDABAD
HITAISHI,

19. The same paper says that considerable trouble and inconvenience is

Complaint against a Sub-Registrar.

felt in registering documents at the Baluchar Sub-Registration office. The undue delay in registration causes great loss to intending executants of instruments. If the Registrar has too much work to do, he should write to Government, praying for extra assistance, instead of subjecting the public to so much trouble.

KHULNA,
Mar. 28th, 1901.

20. The *Khulna* [Khulna] of the 28th March says that considering the

Separate District and Sessions
Judge for the Khulna district

large number of law suits in the Khulna district, it cannot be denied that it should have a separate District and Sessions Judge for itself. The Additional Judge, given to Jessore, should be stationed in Khulna. At least, if his head quarters be fixed at Khulna, the people of the place may get some relief. There are five Deputy Magistrates in Khulna, of whom three are vested with first class powers, and two only with second-class powers. Almost all the criminal cases of the place are decided by the three first-class Deputy Magistrates, so that appeals from their decisions cannot be lodged in any local Court, except during the very short period when the Sessions Judge of Jessore stops at Khulna. Again, those who lodge their appeals in the Jessore Court cannot afford to engage the Khulna pleaders, who are best acquainted with their cases, and take them to Jessore. This entails great loss both on the pleaders and on the litigants. Three Additional Judges were sanctioned for the Khulna, Jessore and Backergunge districts, but in stationing them to the districts where their services would prove of most value, the claim of the Khulna district was totally ignored. His Honour is requested to consider the matter, and appoint a whole-time district and Sessions Judge to Khulna.

21. The same paper says that the District Magistrate of Khulna seldom sits in his Court to receive petitions. It is a rule

Complaints against the Magistrate's Office, Khulna.

that all petitions must be sent through the peshkar. The District Magistrate always sits in his private chamber, to which petitioners have no access. Many and serious are the inconveniences which every one who has any business in the Khulna record-rooms, has to suffer. The room has the usual "No admission" placard put up at its entrance, so that a person may cry himself hoarse at the door without attracting the notice of any clerk within. Men, who have to take copies of documents, are put to great trouble, and have occasionally to suffer loss. Counterfoils are kept most carelessly in a room, where sits a daftari, who behaves most discourteously towards those who come to him on any business. All applications to take copies of documents are received through a hole in the wall of the record-room, but generally none remains there to receive them. Then there are no means of ascertaining whether or no the copy of any document which has been applied for is ready, and not unoften the applicant learns after four or five days that his application has been rejected, and filed. Who is to be held responsible for the loss caused by such delay?

Persons desiring to deposit fines in the Court have to stand at the door of a room so long as the attention of any clerk within is not drawn towards him.

22. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 28th March has the following:—

Mr. Justice Ameer Ali's decisions in certain adultery cases.

The acquittal by Mr. Justice Ameer Ali and Mr. Justice Pratt of Lal Mia, who was charged with committing adultery in broad day-light, and sentenced to four years' rigorous imprisonment by Mr. Pennell, has come upon the people of Noakhali as a surprise! But the same Judges of the High Court have acted differently in the case of Purna Chander Das, who was charged with kidnapping a young Muhammadan woman and committing rape upon her. The District Judge of Dacca, before whom the case was tried, distinctly said that he would have acquitted the accused for want of evidence but for the verdict of "guilty" arrived at by the majority of the jury. And yet, in this case, Mr. Justice Ameer Ali and Mr. Justice Pratt enhanced the sentence of five years' rigorous imprisonment to one of transportation for eight years! Again in the case of Rajlakshmi, a young unmarried girl, belonging to the *kulin* Brahman class, the Muhammadan of Backergunge who had forcibly carried her away, was sentenced to undergo imprisonment by the lower Court. But when the case came before the High Court on appeal, Mr. Justice Ameer Ali made the remark that Rajlakshmi had gone with the accused of her own accord, but she being a minor, the latter could not be acquitted. The issues of these three cases have given rise to much comment.

23. A correspondent writes in the same paper as follows:—

Mr. Pennell.

Mr. Pennell is held in high esteem, not only by the natives of the Noakhali district, but also by impartial Europeans like Miss Placheted (?), who all sing his praise. That the English are becoming more and more powerful in the world every day is simply because there are impartial Judges like Mr. Pennell among them. A stain will be cast on the good name of the Government of India if it really dismiss Mr. Pennell from the service. If Lord Curzon recommends to the Secretary of State Mr. Pennell's dismissal, in order to keep up empty prestige, then the Indians will become convinced that Lord Curzon came to India simply to maintain British prestige, and not to perform the duties that really appertain to the office of Viceroy. It is the foremost duty of every official to see that such an impression does not find its way into the minds of the people.

24. The *Faridpur Hitaishini* [Faridpur] of the 29th March says that the

Babu Ganga Narayan Roy as Subdivisional Officer of Madaripur.

Deputy Magistrate, Bubu Ganga Narayan Roy, has been transferred from Faridpur to Madaripur, where he is likely to remain for some time. He is an able and polite officer. But as he is closely related to the Mozumdar family of Keshabpur and Bajitpur, which are situate within the jurisdiction of Madaripur, and as many criminal and other cases, in which his relatives may be interested, are likely to come up before him, he ought to be transferred from Madaripur.

KHULNA,
Mar. 28th, 1901.

SANJIVANI,
Mar. 28th, 1901.

SANJIVANI.

FARIDPUR
HITAISHINI,
Mar. 29th, 1901.

BANGABANDHU,
Mar. 30th, 1901.

25. The *Bangabandhu* [Chandernagore] of the 30th March says that India is, perhaps, going to lose the services of Mr. Pennell for ever. He will have to go to

England, in order to bring his case before Parliament, and when in that country, his services will very probably be dispensed with under some pretext or other, and a handsome pension will be granted him. For Government fears that if Mr. Pennell is kept in the service, he will divulge many secrets, which may seriously lower it in the estimation of the people of the country.

NAVAYUG.
Mar. 30th, 1901.

26. The *Navayug* [Calcutta] of the 30th March writes as follows:—

Mr. Justice Ameer Ali in two criminal appeals.

Thanks to the hot-headed boy Magistrates and Judges, miscarriage of justice has become a matter of frequent occurrence in the mufassal nowadays. And it is the public belief that what is done wrong by these boy Civilians is set right in the High Court. It is, therefore, easy to guess what a muddle in the administration of justice is likely to take place if the High Court itself acts in a whimsical manner.

For some time past, the Criminal Appellate Bench of the High Court has been composed of Messrs. Justices Ameer Ali and Pratt. Mr. Justice Ameer Ali, being the senior of the two, his opinion carries the greater weight. And his views in regard to two cases recently disposed of by the Bench were so strange that they deserve notice.

In the Sivatarā case of Noakhali, the accused Musalman, Lal Miya, had been convicted by the Sessions Judge of having committed adultery with a Brahman woman and of having committed acts of religious desecration in her husband's house, and was sentenced to four years' rigorous imprisonment. On appeal to the High Court, the evidence for the prosecution was disbelieved by Mr. Justice Ameer Ali, and Lal Miya was acquitted.

The other was the case of rape committed upon a Brahman girl, named Rajlakshmi, of Barisal, by certain Musalmans. In this case, too, the accused had been convicted by the Sessions Judge. But thanks to the Musalmam Judge, Mr. Ameer Ali, of the High Court, the sentences were reduced! The Judge held that the girl was a consenting party!! This plea of consent misleads many Judges and leads to the acquittal of many ruffians charged with rape. But can it be admitted that such a plea could mislead an experienced Judge like Mr. Ameer Ali? Mr. Ameer Ali certainly knows that though oppressed women, like Sivatarā and Rajlakshmi, would have no fear of social ex-communication if they were Musalmans, as Hindus they are subject to such social persecution. In a community which allows its women to re-marry, it may be possible for men, in order to gratify their revenge, to bring false charges against their enemies of having committed rape upon their wives and sisters. But can such false charges be possible in the case of Hindu women like Sivatarā and Rajlakshmi? European Civilians, who come ten thousand miles over the seas, dispense justice with due regard to the manners and customs of the people; but Mr. Ameer Ali, though an Indian himself, has betrayed a sad ignorance of the manners and customs of his fellow-countrymen, the Hindus. Has he not, therefore, forfeited all claim to be called an Indian?

Though Mr. Ameer Ali has been related by marriage to a lady of a different religious persuasion, he is himself, by birth, an Indian Musalman.

We, therefore, look upon him as a "Native" Judge. But, having regard to his views in the above two cases, which betray a sad ignorance of native manners and customs, we are ashamed to own him as a fellow-countryman of ours.

In another case in which a Hindu, named Purna Chundra Das, of Dacca, had been convicted of rape upon a Musalman married girl, the accused got his sentence enhanced at the hands of the Musalman Judge, Mr. Ameer Ali, on appeal to the High Court. In this case, the Judge did not suppose it likely that the Musalman girl was a consenting party. Consent was likely in the case of the unmarried Brahman girl, Rajlakshmi, but not in the case of this married Musalman girl! We feel pained to hear such a view expressed by a native Judge.

27. The *Prabhat* [Calcutta] of the 3rd April says that the remarks which fell from Mr. Justice Ameer Ali at the hearing of the motions in the Noakhali murder case and in Mr. Reily's case have brought to light some new facts in Mr. Pennell's case.

The Pennell case.

Having regard to these remarks, it would have been well if Mr. Pennell had been brought up on a charge of contempt of court. All India possesses unbounded confidence in, and respect for, the High Court. No man, no matter whether it is Mr. Pennell or somebody else, who shows contempt to that body, can expect to get the sympathy of the people. The whole country was so charmed by Mr. Pennell's independence of spirit that it had completely overlooked a serious offence committed by him. All the newspapers are supporting Mr. Pennell, without taking the trouble to enquire for what fault he has been suspended. In Mr. Reily's case, Mr. Pennell could take fourteen days' time to submit the record to the High Court, but, strangely enough, Mr. Pennell had sent no reference in the murder case to the High Court! How serious a matter was this! On the 15th February he had sentenced one man to be hanged and two others to be transported for life. On the 1st March, he came down to Calcutta. Was not a fortnight a sufficient space of time for sending a reference to the High Court! The men had been rotting in jail for a month and a half. Is it right to keep any man sentenced to death so long in jail? By the law, Mr. Pennell was bound to report the case and send the record to the High Court within seven days. His excuse was that he had not been able to arrange the record within that time. If not, how could the *Bengales* and the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* get copies of the papers, and publish them? The truth is that Mr. Pennell was more busy in abusing the Government and others and in giving publicity to his abuse than in attending to matters which affected the accused or the convicted persons. As a matter of fact, he took a trip to the mufassal for a day or two, immediately after having sent Mr. Reily to *hajut* and passed sentence on the accused in the murder case. He completely forgot that he was to send the record to the High Court within seven days. The High Court first came to know of the murder case from the monthly Sessions return. Was such a thing ever heard of before? Should a Sessions Judge, who passes a sentence of death, go about first publishing the proceedings in the newspapers, leaving the culprits in jail, or forthwith send the record with a reference to the High Court? It would, indeed, have been well, if, when Mr. Pennell refused to make over the record to Mr. Chapman, the High Court had charged him with contempt of court. The country would then have sided with it. If the Chief Justice had not sent his telegram to Mr. Pennell, and if the High Court's letter to the Government of Bengal had been written after an open trial of Mr. Pennell for contempt of court, then nobody could have said anything against either the High Court or the Government.

There is not the least doubt that Mr. Pennell had committed a serious offence. A Sessions Judge has the authority to pass a sentence of death, but he has no authority to keep back the records for two or three weeks, keeping the sentenced man in suspense all the time. To do so, not only argues indiscretion but cruelty of heart. People will now see Mr. Pennell's case in its true light.

(d)—Education.

28. The *Bikas* [Barisal] of the 26th March says that when Barisal was first made a centre of the Calcutta University examinations, the pleaders of the local bar used to act as guards over the examinees. But now, when examinees have become far more numerous, they no longer consent to do the work which is, therefore, entrusted to uneducated men. None but the graduates and under-graduates of the University should be employed for this purpose. The appointment of Barisal as a centre of University examinations has been a boon to the inhabitants of the place, and it is hoped that the local pleaders will henceforward make a little sacrifice of their valuable time and consent to act as guards.

The Syndicate sends the examination papers to the District Magistrate, who is required to manage everything in connection with the examinations under his direct supervision. But he generally leaves the work to one of his Deputies or Sub-Deputies.

PRABHAT,
April 3rd, 1901.

BIKAS,
Mar 26th, 1901.

BIKAS,
Mar. 26th, 1901.

29. The same paper says that the Backergunge District Board has abolished the posts of Inspecting Pandits within its jurisdiction. But the reports of the Divisional Inspector and the Resolution of the Bengal Government show that Inspecting Pandits are doing much useful work in the Educational Department, and it appears from the Government Resolution that what the authorities desired was an improvement in the character of their work and not an abolition of their posts. The annual reports of the Educational Department bear testimony to the fact that the Inspecting Pandits of the Backergunge district are the best of their class in the country. The District Board has laid the axe at the root of primary education in the district by suddenly dismissing the Inspecting Pandits. Without them the lower primary schools will be reduced to a miserable condition. The District Board is requested to reconsider the matter.

JYOTI,
Mar. 28th, 1901.

30. The *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 28th March says that Mr. Percival, a teacher of the Chittagong Collegiate School, conducts himself in a very highhanded manner. He never misses an opportunity of wounding the feelings of his students by slandering those whom they revere. He hates Bengalis. His behaviour towards the Head Master of the Collegiate School and the Principal of the College is most improper, and for this the latter has reported against him to the Director of Public Instruction. Mr. Percival should consider whether a man like Mr. Percival should be left in a position of responsibility.

HITAVADI,
Mar. 29th, 1901.

31. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 29th March says that this year the Philosophy paper in the B.A. and the Chemistry and Sanskrit evening papers in the F.A. Examination were very stiff. The Sanskrit paper, it would seem, was intended more to test the candidates' knowledge of historical and geographical researches than to test their proficiency in that language. In Philosophy the same text-books should be taught in different colleges, otherwise no uniformity of result can be expected. In the B.A. Sanskrit evening paper (pass course), the first and third questions carrying 22 marks were too difficult for the candidates, as they were required to criticise in Sanskrit the works of Kalidas. It behoves the examiners to be lenient in awarding marks.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,
Mar. 29th, 1901.

32. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* [Calcutta] of the 29th March writes as follows:—
The Viceroy's visit to the Sibpur Engineering College. The Viceroy accompanied by the Director of Public Instruction visited the Sibpur Engineering College and, after a careful inspection of the institution, expressed himself satisfied with the way work is done there.

We are glad to learn that his visit has not, like that of some preceding Viceroys, ended in smoke. He has selected seven students from the Sibpur Engineering College to complete their scientific education in England. Of these seven, we want to know, how many are natives of this country. We are, however, glad to see the catholicity of Lord Curzon's mind.

DACCA GAZETTE,
April 1st, 1901.

33. The *Dacca Gazette* [Dacca] of the 1st April contains the following in English on educational reform:—

Educational reform.
That the educational system in India requires thorough overhauling admits of no contradiction. The Viceroy in his Convocation Speech has promised a reform. What direction this much-needed reform will take remains yet to be seen. We are quite sure the general public will welcome even a thorough reform of the whole system, if it be undertaken in a sympathetic spirit towards the children of the soil. Merely by appointing a highly-paid Minister of Education, none of the existing drawbacks of the system can be removed. Very frequently a charge is brought against our Indian Universities that these are examining bodies. We do not see clearly how greater good could have been done by making these teaching bodies also. In these days of hard struggle for existence, owing to continued periods of scarcity and famine and pestilence, how many students may be found in any part of the country who will have the time or the will to devote their lives to the cultivation of the arts and sciences irrespective of the prospect of gain? There was a time when plenty smiled all over the country and when scholars and philosophers could afford to wed themselves to their favourite subject of study, not

from motives of gain, but from the unselfish motive of rendering good to their fatherland. Those times are gone, never perhaps to come back. The western spirit of struggling for existence has been infused. With the development of railways and other means of communication export trade has been freely encouraged. The people have very little knowledge of developing the resources of their country. Many do not even know what the resources of their country are. Before they understood these things, the free-trade doctrines of English politicians have been applied to India. What has done good to one country must do good to another was safely asserted. The result in India has been to drive out native enterprise. And now there reigns the gaunt spectre of famine over the length and breadth of the land in place of plenty and prosperity. The minds of the people have been unhinged. Their minds have been unhinged since the day when hand labour had to encounter mechanical skill. It is natural to expect that under such circumstances the only desire of the people will be to acquire money, and the successful will care only for hoarding, as a provision against a rainy day. Who can seriously expect that our youths at such a time will have the desire; even if they had the desire, they would be allowed by their parents and guardians to acquire knowledge merely for the sake of knowledge? If the real state of the country be as we have painted it, and we are quite sure that we have not overdrawn even in the least, is imparting an essentially literary education calculated to qualify our young men to cope with the new state of things successfully? Of course, the University has prescribed its A course as well as its B course of study. But a general grounding in the sciences our students have not. The feeble attempts of the Calcutta University to introduce a few pages of a "Science Primer" into the curriculum of its Entrance Examination show impotence. In primary education boys will be required to make bird-cages and such other things. Well and good. But do the authorities seriously hope that after a boy has learned how to make baskets and bird-cages, and after he has crammed his mind with all those precious things in the pages of Huxley, he has been given a thorough training in the sciences and has become fit for inventing new machines, or working out those which are already in existence, and thus hold his own against all foreign competition? The fact is that even Government have their fads and these are to be from time to time carried out into practice by way of experiments, and money has to be thrown out for making these experiments.

(e)—*Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.*

34. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 26th March writes as follows:—

Local self-government in Burdwan. Government has been kind enough to grant us local self-government in municipal matters. But we have failed to realise what this local self-government means. When the proposal of introducing local self-government in this country was first made, we thought that the Municipal Commissioners, that is, the representatives of the people on the Municipal Committees, would be allowed to manage municipal affairs according to their lights. But we have been disillusioned. We now find that the Municipal Commissioners have been allowed no freedom of action. They are bound hand and foot. In everything they do they are subject to interference by the Magistrate, the Divisional Commissioner and the Lieutenant-Governor. The Commissioners can do nothing important according to their own discretion. In most things they have to obtain the sanction of the authorities.

There are water-works in the Burdwan Municipality. The Commissioners were for allowing house-connection to all. But the Divisional Commissioner vetoed their proposal, and house-connection was disallowed. This is not the only instance in which the Commissioners of the Municipality have failed to carry out a measure calculated to benefit the rate-payers in consequence of official opposition.

There has been lately a reassessment in the same Municipality. The Assessor had made large enhancements over the existing assessments. On appeal, the Commissioners reduced the assessments. But this displeased the Divisional Commissioner, because the reassessment led to no increase of

BURDWAN
SANJIVANI,
Mar. 26th, 1901.

municipal revenue. He wrote: "The result of local self-government here is that with increasing riches the town pays less than it did 30 years ago." It would be a matter of congratulation, if what the Commissioner said were true. But in this matter the authorities would never agree with us. They believe that the more tax the people pay, the better is it for them. We hold the directly contrary view. We believe that form of Government to be the best under which the people enjoy the maximum of comfort and convenience in return for the payment of the minimum of taxes.

In writing of the working of the Municipality, the Divisional Commissioner has, however, said that the roads and drains are in a good condition and the town is kept very clean. If this be so, why then is he displeased with the Commissioners for not enhancing the assessments? The Commissioners should deserve praise for carrying on the administration of the Municipality successfully without imposing additional burdens on the rate-payers.

The fact is that the authorities never fully realise the hardship which is caused to tax-payers by the increase of taxation. Much of our misery would have been removed, if they could be made to understand under what difficulties and hardships we have to live. It is true people's incomes have increased, but their expenses have increased fourfold compared with the increase in their incomes. A family which could formerly live with comfort on ten rupees a month requires one hundred rupees to live with equal comfort now. How many among our rulers know this?

The only rate which was formerly levied in the Burdwan Municipality was the house-rate. The rates now levied are the house-rate, the latrine-rate and the water-rate. Formerly a rate-payer had to pay only 7 per cent. on his assessment. Now he has to pay from 17.25 to 18.75 per cent.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BASAR
PATRIKA.
Mar. 27th, 1901.

35. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 27th March refers to the extremely bad condition of the roads and drains in the village Sinti under the Barahanagar Municipality in the 24-Parganas district. Refuse in the streets is seldom removed. A shower makes the streets quite unfit for walking. There are street-lamps to light the streets at night, but they are so few in number and emit so little light that people get very little benefit from them. There is a drain by the side of a field in the place, which is so deep and broad as to become dangerous to cultivators who have to cross it with their bullocks to come to the field. The Municipal Commissioner for the place and the authorities of the Barahanagar Municipality should look to these inconveniences of the villagers.

36. The same paper writes as follows:—

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BASAR
PATRIKA.

The present health of Calcutta. Calcutta is the metropolis of India, the centre of an extensive commerce and the dwelling place of a vast population. It needs no argument to prove that the maintenance of the health of a town like this is a very important and responsible task. But, influenced by *aid*, Government has made a serious mistake in the matter, and thousands of people are losing their health in consequence of its mistake.

The first and foremost duty of the Calcutta Municipality is to keep the town clean by a prompt removal of its refuse, sweepings, night-soil, &c., and to keep up an effective system of drainage. But this duty has been neglected by the municipal executive, since they were invested with excessive powers after the passing of the new municipal law. The present filthiness of the town is not comparable even to the condition it was reduced to in the year in which plague first broke out in Calcutta, and all the municipal sweepers and mehters fled from fear of being subjected to the stringent plague regulations which were then in force. The mehters and sweepers are all at their posts this year, yet the town has been reduced to a vast hell. Never before did the death-rate of Calcutta swell so suddenly as it has done this year. Plague is not the sole cause of this rise in the death-rate. All sorts of disease are raging most virulently just now.

The only cause of the present unhealthiness of the town is the utter neglect of sanitation by the municipal executive. The municipal executive stood as idle lookers-on when, during the last rainy season, the whole town, on account of the bad drainage system, remained under water for four or five consecutive days. But the residents foresaw that the dampness thus imparted to the soil

would be the cause of serious unhealthiness later on. Twenty-five years ago, an authority like Dr. Mouat had said :—"The future sanitary state of Calcutta will be worse than its present hygienic condition, if the products of putrefactive fermentation daily of two hundred tons of excrementitious matters are permitted to poison the air of the town in a concentrated form, at a time when the condition of the atmosphere, from more general causes, is in the state most favourable for the production of disease."

This prophecy is now going to be fulfilled. A comparison of the present condition of Calcutta with its condition under the native Commissioners, also, clearly shows that the Municipality was far better managed under these Commissioners than it is now.

A few weeks ago, when small-pox was raging virulently in the town, a certain Commissioner asked the Chairman what steps he was taking for preventing the high death-rate. Mr. Greer silenced the Commissioner with the assurance that the health of the town, as a whole, was not at all bad. At the same meeting, also, the Health Officer of the Municipality was given permission to serve as the Examiner in Hygiene at the Medical College examinations, in spite of the protest of a Commissioner, who said that Dr. Cook ought not to be given the permission, considering that in the months of March and April the health of the town would require his constant services. But it is probable that the heavy death-rate which is now prevailing has brought the Chairman to a sense of the real condition of the town, for which the municipal executive are solely responsible.

37. The *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 28th March says that all bad tanks situate within the limits of the Chittagong Municipality should be dewatered, in order that they may receive a supply of good rain-water in the rainy-season. The Municipal Overseer, who is always very lax in the performance of his duties, should take up the work as soon as possible.

38. The *Navayug* [Calcutta] of the 30th March says that the prices of food-grains and other articles of food are becoming dearer every day, and adulteration is freely going on. The food Inspectors of the Municipal Corporation should take prompt and active measures.

39. The *Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 1st April has the following:—
Calcutta is being ravaged by plague, and yet the City Fathers are indifferent! The city is full of filth, and the streets are covered with thick layers of dust. The old Municipality seems to have been better in the matter of conservancy. Prompt and immediate disinfection of the place where any one dies of plague is absolutely necessary, but that is seldom done by the Municipality. In fact, the place is disinfected two or three days after the occurrence of the death, thus allowing sufficient time for the spread of the disease. The virulence of the disease may be checked to some extent if the town is kept clean and measures are taken for prompt disinfection. The sanitary improvement of the Chowringhee quarter takes up so much energy and attention of the authorities that they cannot attend to the wants of the filthy native quarters. The patience of the native residents of Calcutta is praiseworthy. It is owing to this patience that they are getting accustomed to their infernal surroundings and falling easy victims to the dreadful disease!

(g)—*Railways and Communications, including Canals and Irrigation.*

40. The *Faridpur Hitaishini* [Faridpur] of the 29th March has the following:—

Railway complaints. There are no lights in the third class carriages of the train, which leaves Faridpur at 8-30 P.M. for Pachuria Goalundo Ghat. The Station Master of Faridpur has been repeatedly drawing the attention of the authorities to this matter, but to no purpose. The District Magistrate is asked to redress this grievance. On the 11th March, no tickets were issued to 56 intending passengers, although there was sufficient time for the purpose; consequently they had to suffer a great deal.

JYOTI,
Mar. 28th, 1901.

NAVAYUG,
Mar. 30th, 1901.

PRATIVASI,
April 1st, 1901.

FARIDPUR
HITAISHINI,
Mar. 29th, 1901.

BHARAT MITRA,
Mar. 30th, 1901.

41. The *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 30th March says that the hardship to which the third class passengers are subjected at the time of going through the narrow

A railway complaint.

passage leading to the Howrah station platform is, day by day, assuming serious proportions. They are very roughly handled by the ticket examiners, who are mostly Eurasian lads. If this state of things continues for some time longer, most probably the Howrah station will one day be a scene of a great *fracas*. The higher railway authorities should remove these Christian lads from the Howrah station or warn them not to conduct themselves in this way.

(h)—General.

**SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O
ANANDA BAZAR
PRATIKA,**
Mar. 27th, 1901.

42. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Pratrika* [Calcutta] of the 27th March writes as follows:—

The Financial Statement.

In submitting the Financial Statement, Sir Edward Law pointed out that in the accounts of 1899-1900 there was a surplus of £2,774,623, and in the Revised Estimates of 1900-1901 there was a surplus of £1,640,400. Government may earn the praise of the Anglo-Indian community by showing these good results, which were achieved in spite of extra expenditure on account of plague and famine. But the people of the country have no reason to congratulate themselves upon them, because the surplus of one year is not carried over to the next, and no one knows what becomes of it.

All the taxes which could possibly be imposed have been imposed upon the people of India, and it is not in their power to pay any new tax. Yet, India's public debt is every year increasing. How long can matters go on in this way? Any surplus that is made ought to be devoted to the paying off of debt. But that is not done. It is, therefore, all the same to the people whether Government spends all the revenues, makes a saving or contracts debts. The debt will go on increasing and increasing, and there is little prospect of India ever getting free of it. Our only consolation is that when the expenses are managed by the English Government, it is the English Government which is responsible, also, for the debts. It is strange that, in the face of such a state of things, the Finance Member should every year give a glowing picture of the financial condition of the country.

SANJIVANI,
Mar. 28th, 1901.

43. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 28th March writes as follows:—

Rumoured supersession of
Mr. B. L. Gupta.

It is rumoured that Mr. Staley, the District Judge of Muzaffarpur, will be appointed in the place of Mr. Justice Prinsep who will soon retire. Mr. Staley will thus supersede Mr. B. L. Gupta, although he is his junior. Nothing except his complexion stands in the way of Mr. Gupta's promotion. But we were told by Lord Curzon that he would act according to the Queen's Proclamation of 1857, and the same assurance was given us by our new King-Emperor.

SAMAY,
Mar. 29th, 1901.

44. The *Samay* [Calcutta] of the 29th March has the following:—

The budget discussion.

The customary budget discussion in the Imperial Legislative Council every year seems little short of a farce. For, although there are elected representatives in the Council, their suggestions or amendments are seldom paid heed to. When such representatives have no voice in the matter, such discussion hardly serves any useful purpose. It is also immaterial whether or not the budget shows a saving or increase of expenditure, for in the case of a surplus it falls under the head "Cash Balance," and no one knows what becomes of the enormous sums shown under that head. In the case of increased expenditure, Government has to meet it either by curtailing general expenditure or by contracting loans or imposing a new tax. Now, if the income of the India Government exceeded expenditure last year in spite of the terrible famine which devastated the country, then it must be admitted that India is now in a most flourishing condition. And, if that be the case, Government should do away with the salt-tax and spend at least one crore of rupees more on literary and technical education. Whenever Government is approached for pecuniary help, it pleads shortness of funds. But this stereotyped objection to incur necessary expenditure will no longer hold water. For, if the exchequer is short of funds, how is it that there was a surplus of 2½ crores last year in spite of the terrible famine, and how is it that there is likely to be a surplus of

more than a crore next year? In spite of the recurrence of famine every seven, five or three years, the army expenditure will be increased by one crore and sixty lakhs next year. Famines would have occurred less frequently if Government had spent the famine tax in the prosecution of irrigation projects without breaking its promise. Government now sees this, and so Lord Curzon is taking the necessary steps. But extension of irrigation alone will not do; the poverty of the people must be removed by teaching them lucrative arts. In cases of famine Government means to feed the hungry people by contracting loans, but this will only increase the poverty of the people and consequently the possibility of famines.

45. Referring to the Lieutenant-Governor's recent visit to the plague-infected spots in Calcutta, the *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 30th March says that it was a sight to see His Honour standing in the midst of a crowd of common people, encouraging them to bear up under their misfortunes, and answering their simple and honest enquiries in plain and consoling words. His Honour has assured the people that no oppressive measures will be enforced in order to check the progress of plague in Calcutta.

BANGAVASI,
Mar. 30th, 1901.

III.—LEGISLATION.

46. A correspondent writes in the *Bankura Darpan* [Bankura] of the 23rd March as follows:—
Proposed amendment of the Tenancy Act and the Civil Procedure Code.

BANKURA DARPAN,
Mar. 23rd, 1901.

In the petition to the Lieutenant-Governor made by the British Indian Association on the subject of the Tenancy Act, only a few of the defects of that measure have been pointed out. As the petition is made by the zamindars, the amendments prayed for are such as would prove beneficial to the zamindars alone, but nothing has been asked for on behalf of the tenants. The following amendments in the Tenancy Act and the Civil Procedure Code appear necessary:—

(1) Clause C of section 44 of Act VIII of 1885 and section 45 of the same Act ought to be amended.

(2) The tenants have to deposit their arrears of rent under section 61 on a certain date, but it frequently happens that on the same date and in the same Court suits are instituted against them by the zamindars for arrears of rent in regard to the same holdings. Steps should be taken to protect the tenants from such harassments by the zamindars.

(3) Section 54 of the Tenancy Act empowers the tenants to remit their rents by money-order. But as there is no distinct provision authorising the production of the money-order receipts as evidence, the tenants have to suffer considerable expense and hardship to make the post peon attend the Court on the days of hearing. So this section should be amended, and the necessary amendments should also be made in the Evidence Act.

(4) In many cases in spite of the proof of tender by money-order, some learned Judges hold the tenants liable for costs and interests under section 67. This should be remedied by express legislation.

(5) There being no provision in the Civil Procedure Code to easily compel the attendance of witnesses, parties have to suffer considerable harassment.

(6) What is the use of retaining the Court peons who serve summonses and other notices, if the returns submitted by them are disbelieved by the Judges? The parties may as well serve notices by their own men and then swear affidavits.

(7) Only section 256 of the Civil Procedure Code provides for oral application for the issue of a warrant against the defendant in a civil suit of less than Rs. 1,000. Such provision is not to be found anywhere else, and so the parties in the lower Courts have to suffer considerable loss. This point should be made clear.

47. The *Saraswat-Patra* [Dacca] of the 23rd March says that the high-mindedness shown by Mr. Cotton in connection with the recent Cooly Act will be remembered by the Indians for ever. The writer thanks the Government of India and Mr. Cotton for the increase, small though it is, that has been made in the wages of coolies.

Mr. Cotton in the Assam Labour and Emigration Act.

SARASWAT PATRA,
Mar. 23rd, 1901.

HITAVADI,
Mar. 29th, 1901.

48. Referring to the Mines Bill, the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 29th March writes as follows:—

The Mines Bill.

There is some consolation in the thought that the public protest against the Mines Bill was not altogether a cry in the wilderness. Government has made some concessions for which we are grateful to Lord Curzon. The wives and children of the miners will be allowed to go with them inside the mines and will be employed in particular kinds of work. But there was no necessity of passing this Act at all, except for the purpose of silencing the opposition of some interested parties in England. It is the philanthropy and unsolicited sympathy of such interested people that alarms us most.

PRABHAT,
April 3rd, 1901.

49. Referring to Mr. Buckland's reply in the Bengal Council to Babu Surendra Nath Banerjee's interpellations regarding Mr. Pennell's case, the *Prabhat* [Calcutta] of the 3rd April writes as follows:—

The Pennell case in the Bengal Council.

The mountain has brought forth a mouse! It is clear that Government is endeavouring to burke the matter. But can a fire be extinguished with the help of a cloth?

By publicly assigning the reasons of Mr. Pennell's suspension, Government would not only have removed all misconceptions from the public mind, but would have better consulted its own prestige and the prestige of law and justice. It has not, therefore, been right for the Government to keep silent.

V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

CHARU MIHIR,
Mar. 26th, 1901.

50. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 26th March has the following:—

Water-scarcity in Bengal.

Water-scarcity prevails not only in Mymensingh but throughout Bengal, in spite of the existence of District Boards and rich zamindars in the country. In former times excavation of tanks was considered an act of piety by the rich, and water-scarcity was seldom heard of. Now the zamindars justly hold the District Boards responsible for the supply of water to the people. The Boards fail to do their duty in this matter properly, and the liberality of the zamindars, too, has diminished.

There is a small tank at Raghavpur within the jurisdiction of the Kotwali thana which supplies drinking water to 14 or 15 neighbouring villages. Some Muhammadans of Nikuria village went to fish in that tank, and being opposed by the men of Raghavpur, a free fight took place between them. Within three or four miles of Paranganj under the same Kotwali thana, there is no tank whatever. Some one had fetched water from a distance of nine miles, but it was stolen at night. The thief, it was found, had brought a pot with him and taken away the water only. These matters ought to be enquired into.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

HITAVADI,
Mar. 22nd, 1901.

51. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 22nd March, in noticing Mr. Buckland's "Bengal under the Lieutenant-Governors," writes as follows:—

Mr. Buckland's book.

Even Mr. Buckland's enemies will admit that this is a beautiful book, both for its get-up and for the skill with which it has been compiled. There was an impression in this part of the country that Mr. Buckland was a native-hater. Few had hoped that he would get his book published by a native publisher or printed in a native press. There is, besides, no trace of antipathy against natives in the first volume which is out, and this is a thing which makes us very glad.

The author has given evidence of extraordinary industry and skill in the arts of compilation and description. No matter of social, political, industrial or administrative importance has escaped his notice. Civilians, as a rule, consider themselves infallible. It is therefore gratifying to find Mr. Buckland careful to support his every statement by authority.

The introduction is the most charming portion of the book. Many facts connected with the establishment of British rule and many important matters relating to those early days are given in it. The pictures given of Sir Frederick

Halliday, Sir John Grant, Sir Cecil Beadon, Sir William Grey and Sir George Campbell are beautiful, and the details of the personal life of the Lieutenant-Governors will not be without their value for the student of history.

There is evidence in every chapter of the book that it was not the author's object to confine himself to the narration of historic events. The social customs of Bengal, popular festivals and festivities, class and caste feelings, trade, industries like tea and indigo, manufactures, luxuries, the Kukis, the Garos and all such matters have found a place in his book. The author has reflected on Bengali timidity. We are not sorry for this. Naturally the Bengali is neither weak nor timid. Everyone repressed by brute force becomes weak and timid.

Mr. Buckland has not concealed the defects of the police. It bespeaks no ordinary strength of mind to free oneself from official prejudice and discover the faults of the police. We shall be benefited if Mr. Buckland's description of the police induces the authorities to set about reforming it.

Many are eagerly waiting for the publication of the second volume of this book.

52. The *Tripura Hitaishi* [Comilla] of the 26th March writes as follows under the heading "Terrible Civilisation":—

Western civilisation.

All quarters were ringing with the praise of western civilisation. Never before, it was declared, had there been seen such progress in science and philosophy, such profound peace and such wonderful manifestations of love. Western civilisation, western policy, western social regulations and western commerce were pronounced alike unprecedented. The praise of the western world was being sung from numerous throats in poems and speeches, essays and songs. But all of a sudden the song stopped, and people looked wondering at one another's face. All seemed to cry with one voice "How grievously have all our hopes been belied!"

There is a "Peace Association" in Europe, the object of which is to put an end to war, carnage and robbery on the part of sovereigns. The Peace Association, while reposing in the cool shade of peace, was indulging in the hope that Europe had become most gentle and peaceful, that there was nothing more to fear, and that there could be no more spoliation of territories by kings. Many alluded to Musalman oppression in the past and contracted their brows. The Musalmans, it was declared, were great barbarians; they had needlessly conquered countries without number and perpetrated many an infamous deed. There was no longer that barbarism. There was nothing but brotherly embraces, kind greetings, welcome and courtesy.

But the civilised United States were the first to deal a blow to this faith. People thought that, whatever others might do, the people of the United States, at any rate, would never acquire any foreign territory by conquest, in disregard of the precious counsel of the great and patriotic Washington. The United States have displayed their blood-thirstiness by depriving the people of the Phillipines of their independence. America is no longer possessed of a gentle and peaceful spirit. America is no longer the America under Washington. America is now a worshipper of force and possessed of a blood-thirsty spirit. Everyone had great hopes of America, and it was proclaimed a model State. When that America has broken its vow and taken to conquering territories, sword in hand, like the other Powers, what hope is there of peace?

Since the defeat of Napoleon the French people had been travelling the downhill slope of deterioration. Germany wanted to ruin France. But fortunately France has recovered her strength after her defeat in the great war. The French people are now polite and gentle, because they are now greatly hampered in their movements. But whenever a trial comes, they show themselves in their true colours.

Russia is constantly in search of prey. Her present hunting-ground is China. Russians are displaying great dexterity in hunting Chinamen in Manchuria.

Germany is casting her eyes round in search of prey; she is always ready with gun and cannon, and it only remains to apply fire to the touch-hole. As soon as there was an opening in China, the German Emperor made an animated speech and sent troops there. The hunt was up and his excitement knew no bounds!

TRIPURA
HITAISHI,
Mar. 26th, 1901.

What terrible deeds have been and are now being perpetrated by the Powers in China. The civilised Europeans have exacted a hundredfold retribution for the wrongs perpetrated by the uncivilised Chinese. Have the Musalmans ever committed greater oppression in a conquered country? History bears no such testimony.

The present wars clearly prove that what is called civilisation in these days is not true civilisation, but only the outward garb of civilisation. That is why, whenever a trial comes, this external civilisation vanishes.

What are the signs of civilisation? The victory of universal love and goodwill. Kings can be truly called civilised only if they are found ready to sacrifice all self-interests for the maintenance of peace and purity and to follow the religion of universal love and goodwill even at the risk of injury to themselves and their subjects. Mere learning does not make one civilised. The signs of civilisation are to be found in character and in practice.

The European Powers have begun to act in such a way that they have no right to give themselves airs. Do not the present civilised soldiers fight, trample on foreign countries, violate chastity and burn down houses exactly like the people of former centuries?

We again say that if theft, dacoity, falsehood, deceit, arson, plunder, slaughter and rape are committed or practised for the sake of conquest, and if those who win victories by such means are called civilised, is not that civilisation a "terrible civilisation" indeed?

JYOTI,
Mar. 28th, 1901.

53. The *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 28th March says that the Commissioner

The Chittagong commemoration
of the late Queen-Empress.

of the Chittagong Division has decided upon the construction of a lady hospital in Chittagong to commemorate the late Queen-Empress. The Chit-

tagong General Hospital has got a lady doctor and special apartments for female patients, so that it is not clear what good will be done by the construction of a separate lady hospital in that town. Zamindars and other private individuals should not be made to pay subscriptions in aid of a work for which there is evidently no necessity.

BANGAVASI,
Mar. 30th, 1901.

54. Referring to the Viceroy's desire to make the "Hastings' Building"

Hastings' Building as a place
of reception for Native Princes.

a place of reception for Native Princes in Calcutta, the *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 30th March says that His Excellency intends to make the building

known as one rich in its historical memories. But would not the name of Hastings bring to the minds of Indian Hindu Princes the unpleasant memory of the execution of the Brahmin Nanda Kumar?

URIYA PAPERS.

UTKALDIPIKA,
Mar. 23rd, 1901.

55. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 23rd March is glad to find that

Registration and return of docu-
ments by the Cuttack sub-registry
office.

steps have been taken by the Sub-Registrar of Cuttack to receive documents for registration and return the same to the parties on the same day.

Though the procedure may be a good one in itself, still it is objectionable to return documents at 9 P.M., when the Sub-Registrar cannot be expected to be present and when the parties must come under the influence of his *amlas*, whatever that may mean. The writer suggests that all delivery should be stopped after sunset, and any documents that may have been ready for such delivery may be distributed on the next day in the presence of the Sub-Registrar.

UTKALDIPIKA.

56. The same paper approves of the action of Mr. Carstairs, the Com-

Mr. Carstairs on the question
of employing pleaders in certain
classes of cases.

missioner of Orissa Division, in making a reference to the local pleaders, enquiring whether they have any objection to his prohibiting the employment of pleaders in the hearing of departmental appeals,

namely, appeals submitted by dismissed *amlas*, officers, &c., permission being granted for such employment only in special cases, and observes that the Commissioner is not in a hurry to carry out his own views without consulting the parties who may be affected thereby.

57. The same paper further states that the reinstatement of Kailas Chandra Chakravarty, a Sub-Inspector of Police, who was dismissed by the Inspector-General of Police on insufficient grounds, by Mr. Carstairs has evoked considerable public sympathy, as the public are of opinion that Mr. Carstairs' action is both just and merciful.

UTKALDIPIKA.
Mar. 23rd, 1901.

58. The same paper is of opinion that the publication of general census results, with Government resolution on the same, within a period of two weeks from the date of its taking, is a marvellous performance that is highly creditable to the census authorities. All the native papers of Orissa give a substance of the results and the resolution in their columns.

UTKALDIPIKA.

59. Referring to the success of the Oriental Salt Trading Company in Madras, whose salt has found its way into all the districts of Orissa and has reduced the sale of salt imported from foreign countries in to those districts, the same paper observes that it is a hopeful sign and hopes that the Company will take early steps to make their salt still better and cheaper and well-suited to the requirements of the market. The writer is of opinion that the increase in the number of salt cases in Orissa may be due to the overzeal of the Salt Police, who have oftentimes been found to chalan very poor men who were compelled by sheer necessity to taste a little of the saline earth that is found in abundance on the Orissa sea-board.

UTKALDIPIKA.

60. The same paper is sorry to learn that the Balanga Fair, held in the Puri district in honour of the Dolejatra festival, was a hot-bed of cholera, as of the large number of visitors that proceeded thither from Kothdes, 80 died of the disease within a period of three days. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 20th March reports that cholera and small-pox are raging in the Balasore town.

UTKALDIPIKA
URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD.
Mar. 20th, 1901.

61. The *Samvad Vahika* [Balasore] of the 21st March reports a few showers of rain accompanied by hailstones in the Balasore district that did good to some crops and injury to others.

SAMVADVAHIKA,
Mar. 21st, 1901.

62. The same paper is of opinion that the number of standing army, both European and Native, in India may be considerably reduced, and, as a consequence, a large amount of money saved, by enlisting a large number of Indians as volunteers. The volunteer system, which is in force in the United Kingdom, may be easily introduced into India.

SAMVADVAHIKA,

63. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 20th March regrets that the division of opinion among the worshippers of god Bhuvaneswar in the Puri district prevented the Collector of Puri and his Engineer from entering the outer precincts of the temple with the object of inspecting its condition with a view to suggest repairs of which the temple stands in urgent need, and adds that this should not have been the case at a time when Government has expressed its willingness to contribute a substantial sum towards its repairs.

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD,
Mar. 20th, 1901.

ASSAM PAPERS.

64. The *Silchar* [Silchar] of the 2nd March says that even so early as this, famine is being keenly felt in Cachar. Ninety per cent. of the people have no paddy in their houses, while they have scarcely any money to buy it with. Then the time for paying the Government revenue instalment is drawing near. Many have petitioned the Commissioner for its remission. On a former occasion a similar petition was refused. But at the present time it behoves the authorities to pay every attention to the people's prayers.

SILCHAR,
Mar. 2nd, 1901.

SILCHAR,
Mar. 2nd, 1901.

65. The same paper says that there is acute water-scarcity in Sylhet and the surrounding places. In Sylhet the municipality has no reserved tanks as other municipalities have. It is hoped that the Sylhet Municipality will excavate some reserved tanks in the town on the occasion of commemorating the late Queen-Empress.

NARAYAN CHANDRA BHATTACHARYYA,

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 6th April, 1901.

Offg. Bengali Translator.